Biological Sciences Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Fellows Program Fall 2015

The Biological Sciences Program, within the College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences, will employ Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (UTAs) Fall 2015 in a program designed to develop teaching and communication skills, organization ability, knowledge, and leadership. Each UTA will be supervised by the lab or discussion coordinator for the course they are assigned to, and will be required to perform the duties typically expected of a teaching assistant.

UTA duties will include:
- Attend weekly prep meetings as scheduled by the lab or discussion supervisor (see below for times)
- Attend lectures.
- Teach one lab or discussion section per week (except for BSCI207, see below)
- Adequately prepare for teaching the lab or discussion
- Grade papers & assignments as assigned by the lab or discussion supervisor, or the faculty instructor
- Hold office hours as directed by the lab or discussion supervisor
- Help to proctor lecture exams as needed
- Be available one week prior to the beginning of classes for scheduled TA meetings
- UTA’s who have not previously done so will register for and attend a 1-credit weekly seminar course on teaching skills and issues, BSCI279P, which meets on Tuesday evenings (BSCI440 UTAs and prep UTAs are exempt from this requirement).

New UTAs teaching labs must attend a lab safety training session prior to or during the first week of classes. This work will require 10 - 15 hours per week, depending on the course requirements. The stipend is $1500.00 for the semester, paid in an hourly wage. Undergraduate students will be hired for only one UTA position in any given semester, but will be allowed to apply for a position in a later semester, assuming their performance is satisfactory.

Interested students fill out the application found here:
https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/SE/?SID=SV_6ePeZX9J71X6hnL

UTA applications are due May 3, 2015.

UTA positions will be awarded starting around June 1, 2015, and hiring will continue throughout the summer until all positions are filled.

Minimum application requirements:
- Second year student
- Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Have taken the course they wish to TA at UMCP and earned a grade of B or higher.
  - Students with AP credit for a course will have completed the next higher level course with a grade of B or higher
  - For the non-majors courses a UTA will have earned a grade of B or higher in either BSCI105 or BSCI06, taken at UMCP.
- Sufficient time free for the UTA position
  - At least one four hour block of time available to teach a 2 or 3 hour lab or discussion
  - Time free to attend lectures for course
  - Time free to attend prep meeting. Prep meeting times are provided below.
  - Time to attend the 1-hour per week teaching skills seminar course. The teaching seminar course will be held: Tues. 5-6 pm (new UTAs; prep-lab UTAs and BSCI440 UTAs are exempt from this requirement)

The courses available for UTAs and the typical prep meeting times for each course are listed below. It is not assured that UTA applicants will be hired for any particular course. UTA positions will be filled based on staffing needs and applicant backgrounds.

BSCI105 Principles of Biology I; Basic principles of biology with special emphasis on cellular and molecular biology.
- Prep meetings: Friday 2 - 5pm
BSCI1106 Principles of Biology II. Basic principles of biology with special emphasis on ecology, evolution, and animal behavior.
   Prep meeting: Friday 3:00 – 5:30pm

BSCI1135 Amazing Green: Plants that Transformed the World I-Series. An interactive way to learn about plants and science, focusing on how plants have changed human history, the biology of their growth, and the science behind their use. Non-majors general education.
   Prep meeting: Friday afternoon

BSCI1189I Race, Genomics and Human Evolutionary History. Fundamental concepts in chemical, cellular, genetic, molecular, & evolutionary biology required to understand human biological diversity, its origins, & its implications for concepts of "race," non- majors general education.
   Prep meeting: Friday, time TBA

BSCI 201 Human Anatomy and Physiology I. Anatomy and physiology of the skeletal, muscular, neural, endocrine, and sensory systems.
   Prep meetings: Friday 1 – 3pm

BSCI202 Human Anatomy and Physiology II. Anatomy and physiology of the cardiovascular, respiratory, immune, digestive, urinary and reproductive systems.
   Prep meetings: Thursday 2 - 4pm

BSCI207 Principles of Biology III. The diversity, structure and function of organisms as understood from the perspective of their common physicochemical principles and unique evolutionary histories.
   Prep meeting time TBA

   Prep meetings Friday 8-9am

BSCI330 Cell Biology and Physiology. Biochemical and physiological mechanisms underlying cellular function. Properties of cells which make life possible and mechanisms by which cells provide energy, reproduce, and regulate and integrate with each other and their environment.
   Prep meetings Friday 2pm-5pm

   Prep meeting: not applicable

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Questions? Contact Dr. Francisca Saavedra, saavedra@umd.edu